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HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 17th AVIATION GROUP

HERALDIC ITEMS

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA (BADGE)

Description: A gold distinctive insignia consisting of a blue disc bearing a gold eagle in flight, wings extended beyond the upper edge of the disc, grasping in its talons a sword, blade white, hilt and pommel gold; all above a gold scroll inscribed "Freedom's Eagles" in red letters.

Symbolism: The color ultramarine blue is associated with aviation units. Gold and red, the colors of the national flag of the Republic of Vietnam, allude to the activation and initial combat service of the 17th Aviation Group in Vietnam. The eagle, mythological guardian of the element air, refers to aviation power; the sword stands for combat. The sword is white for the purity of the cause of freedom for which it is raised. It appears on the shoulder sleeve insignia of the United States Army Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and of the 1st Aviation Brigade under which the unit served.

FLAG DEVICE

None approved.

LINEAGE AND HONORS

LINEAGE

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(nondivisional)

Constituted 1 December 1965 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group. Activated 15 December 1965 in Vietnam. Inactivated 16 March 1973 at Oakland, California. Activated 1 June 1975 in Korea.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Vietnam

Defense	Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive	Summer-Fall 1969
Counteroffensive, Phase II	Winter-Spring 1970
Counteroffensive, Phase III	Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Tet Counteroffensive	Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Counteroffensive, Phase IV	Consolidation I
Counteroffensive, Phase V	Consolidation II
Counteroffensive, Phase VI	Cease-Fire

DECORATIONS

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1967 (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group, cited; DA GO 22, 1968)

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1968 (17th Aviation Group cited; DA GO 21, 1969)

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970 (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group, cited; DA GO 6, 1974)

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1970-1972 (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group, cited; DA GO 6, 1974)

17TH AVIATION GROUP BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Nelson, Barry J. "17th Combat Aviation Group." *United States Army Aviation Digest* 13 (December 1967):14-17.

Tolson, John J. *Airmobility, 1961-1971*. Vietnam Studies. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1974.

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